STAR WARS™

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9

THE SECOND DEATH STAR

Moff Jerjerrod's fully operational battle station

Grand Moff Tarkin

Emperor's Throne Room

DeAGOSTINI

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STAR WARS

At the Battle of Yavin, it seemed that the destruction of the first Death Star battle station had brought about the end of the Tarkin Doctrine of rule through fear. In fact, the Empire immediately began construction of a second, larger and more powerful Death Star, understanding that to properly instil the Tarkin Doctrine they needed to make a crushing statement: the utter destruction of the Rebel Alliance and, with it, the last hope for justice in the galaxy.

"NOW WITNESS THE FIREPOWER OF THIS FULLY ARMED AND OPERATIONAL BATTLE STATION."

EMPEROR PALPATINE

THE STORY
OF THE SECOND DEATH STAR

The first Death Star was intended to be the ultimate symbol of the might of the Empire. Instead, its fiery destruction became a bright light of hope for the galaxy, and a rallying call for the Rebellion. The second Death Star – bigger, better armed and virtually invulnerable – would bring an end to the Rebellion and reinstate the Doctrine of Fear.

The head of the new Death Star's design team was engineer Bevel Lemelisk. This utterly amoral genius saw the Death Star project as an intellectual exercise, dismissing the deaths of millions and the subjugation of the galaxy as irrelevant. He was further 'motivated' by remembrance of his own death, or rather, deaths. As a punishment, the Emperor cloned Lemelisk and then killed him seven times in excruciatingly painful ways, on each occasion transferring Lemelisk's consciousness to a newly cloned body at the point of death.

Fear of another painful demise and the challenge of creating the ultimate space station kept this brilliant engineer very focused. He made a point of ensuring that the mistakes of the first Death Star's design were not replicated. A repeat of Luke Skywalker's shot down a single thermal exhaust port was rendered impossible. Now, reactor heat was dissipated through millions of millimetre-wide ports spread across the whole of the station's surface in a random sequence.

As before, the second Death Star was built of quadanium. The two hemispheres were each divided into

12 sectors. This time, the station was even bigger – an awe-inspiring 900km in diameter.

Starfighter defences were upgraded, with more than 30,000 turbolasers, 7,500 laser turrets, 5,000 ion turrets, 768 tractorbeam projectors and innumerable TIE fighter launch bays covering the new Death Star. However, these were not the only surprises awaiting possible attackers.

Superlaser

The turbolasers bristling across the second Death Star were enough to give pause to capital ships attacking the station. Lemelisk was not done, however, and he reworked the superlaser. The modified version recharged more quickly and could be targeted much faster, allowing it to vaporise capital ship targets.

Black Heart

The main reactor of the Death Star was utterly immense. The vast power output was tuned by a single regulator tower on one side. Unprotected, the arrangement was massively vulnerable. Within the space station, it was completely safe, sealed and unassailable.

Last Minute Change of Plans

Three years into its construction, the station's senior designers and commanders were told that certain systems had to be brought online far ahead of time, secretly, and without impacting on the existing tight schedules. Station commander Moff Jerjerrod complained, and the Emperor sent Darth Vader to ensure his orders were carried out. The incomplete second Death Star was soon to become an armed trap...

UNDER ATTACK!
DEFENDING THE DEATH STAR

For the Emperor, the second Death Star was merely a small piece of an all-encompassing plan to bring Luke Skywalker to the dark side of the Force as his new apprentice. The first step in the plan, the construction of the second Death Star, was well underway. Step two was to ensure the Rebel Alliance learned the location of the incomplete battle station.

The chief designer of the second Death Star, Bevel Lemelisk, pointed out to Emperor Palpatine that the new super weapon would be at risk only during construction. He was confident that once the surface of the station was complete the battle station would be invulnerable. Secrecy was vital to protect the project. The Emperor fully understood this, so to add plausibility to his plan he made sure that many Rebel agents died while getting the information that led the Alliance to learn of the second Death Star project and its location – in orbit around the forested moon of Endor.

Too Tempting

The hard-won secrets revealed that the inoperative station was apparently protected only by a defence shield projected from Endor. The Empire's sentry ships were apparently minimal, and no match for the Rebel Fleet. Furthermore,

the Emperor himself was overseeing the final months of the construction from atop his 100-storey tower at the station's north pole.

The Rebel Alliance, and the Emperor, knew that the second Death Star would be almost impossible to stop once completed. With the added bait of a shot at the Emperor himself, the Alliance couldn't afford not to attack, even if it was a trap. And it was a deadly trap, with the Empire secretly diverting a large part of the Imperial fleet to hide near Endor and lie in wait for the Rebels.

Furthermore, they were not the only defence for the station. To get into the superstructure of the station, the Rebels would have to knock out the defence shield on Endor. An entire legion of The Emperor's best troops awaited them there. Above the verdant moon, the Super Star Destroyer *Executor* led the fleet.

A Weapon Of Terror

On the station itself, the superlaser was fully armed and active, a fact known to only a select few. Able to recharge in minutes instead of hours, the planet-destroying weapon could now target Alliance capital ships. The trap was prepared and the Emperor was certain that his plan would succeed.

But Palpatine underestimated the Alliance once again. On Endor, a team led by Han Solo destroyed the shield. Lando Calrissian led the attacking fighters into the Death Star and destroyed the generator. Lastly, Luke resisted the pull of the dark side, and Darth Vader turned from it, becoming Anakin Skywalker again. The Emperor and his battle station were destroyed.

GRAND MOFF TARKIN

THE MOST POWERFUL SERVANT OF THE EMPEROR

In the ranks of Imperial commanders, Grand Moff Wilhuff Tarkin will ever be remembered for his crimes. Despite its confused origins, the first Death Star was very much his project. He oversaw its construction, and was its commander to the end.

Born on Eriadu, Wilhuff Tarkin was ever the consummate politician. He was governor of the planet by the outbreak of the Clone Wars, and had already sided with Palpatine before he declared himself Emperor. Indeed, it was he who brought the concept of an 'expeditionary battle planetoid', stolen from Raith Sienar, to Palpatine. The designs were refined by the engineers on Geonosis before being returned to Tarkin.

The Maw

To further develop his plans, Tarkin had personally funded the establishment of a secret research installation, called the Maw Installation, in a unique pocket of space, hidden in a calm gravitic anomaly between a grouping of black holes. There, the concept of the Death Star was developed to prototype stage, overseen by Tarkin's protégé and lover, Admiral Daala – one of the few women ever to succeed in the Empire's military.

The Tarkin Doctrine

The Death Star was an important element in what became the Tarkin Doctrine. Along with his brutal military successes, it was this that saw Tarkin promoted to Grand Moff, and given control of virtually the entire Outer Rim. The Doctrine proposed that the Emperor rule through the fear of the use of force, rather than the actual use of force. To make this work, the Empire must be in possession of a single, crushing symbol of that force, potent enough to destroy, for example, an entire planet. After a few key examples were made, the very existence of the planet-killer would be enough to bring the galaxy to heel. In this regard, the Death Star was perfect.

Too Much Power

The very qualities that made Tarkin such a successful Imperial officer also made him a direct threat to Palpatine. Tarkin surrounded himself with equally ambitious officers and the Emperor wanted Tarkin watched, so he despatched Darth Vader to the station. Had the Rebels not destroyed Tarkin and the Death Star at Yavin, perhaps Vader would have been forced to dispose of the Grand Moff personally.

"Fear will keep the local systems in line. Fear of this battle station."

Grand Moff Tarkin

PROFILE

Grand Moff Wilhuff Tarkin

Planet:
Eriadu

Height:
1.8 metres

Species
Human

Affiliation:
Empire

MOFF JERJERROD

COMMANDER OF THE SECOND DEATH STAR

By pairing Grand Moff Tarkin and the Death Star, the Emperor created a possible challenger for command of the Galactic Empire. As the second Death Star was being built, the Emperor made sure to pick the right man to command it – someone unambitious, competent and servile.

Moff Jerjerrod came from a wealthy and well-connected family on the planet Tinnel IV in the Core Worlds' Quanta Sector. His grandfather, an Admiral in the Old Republic's navy, had been an ally of Supreme Chancellor Palpatine and the family prospered from the connections this offered. But while his grandfather had been fiery and determined, Jerjerrod was more methodical, efficient and slightly dull.

The Emperor's Choice

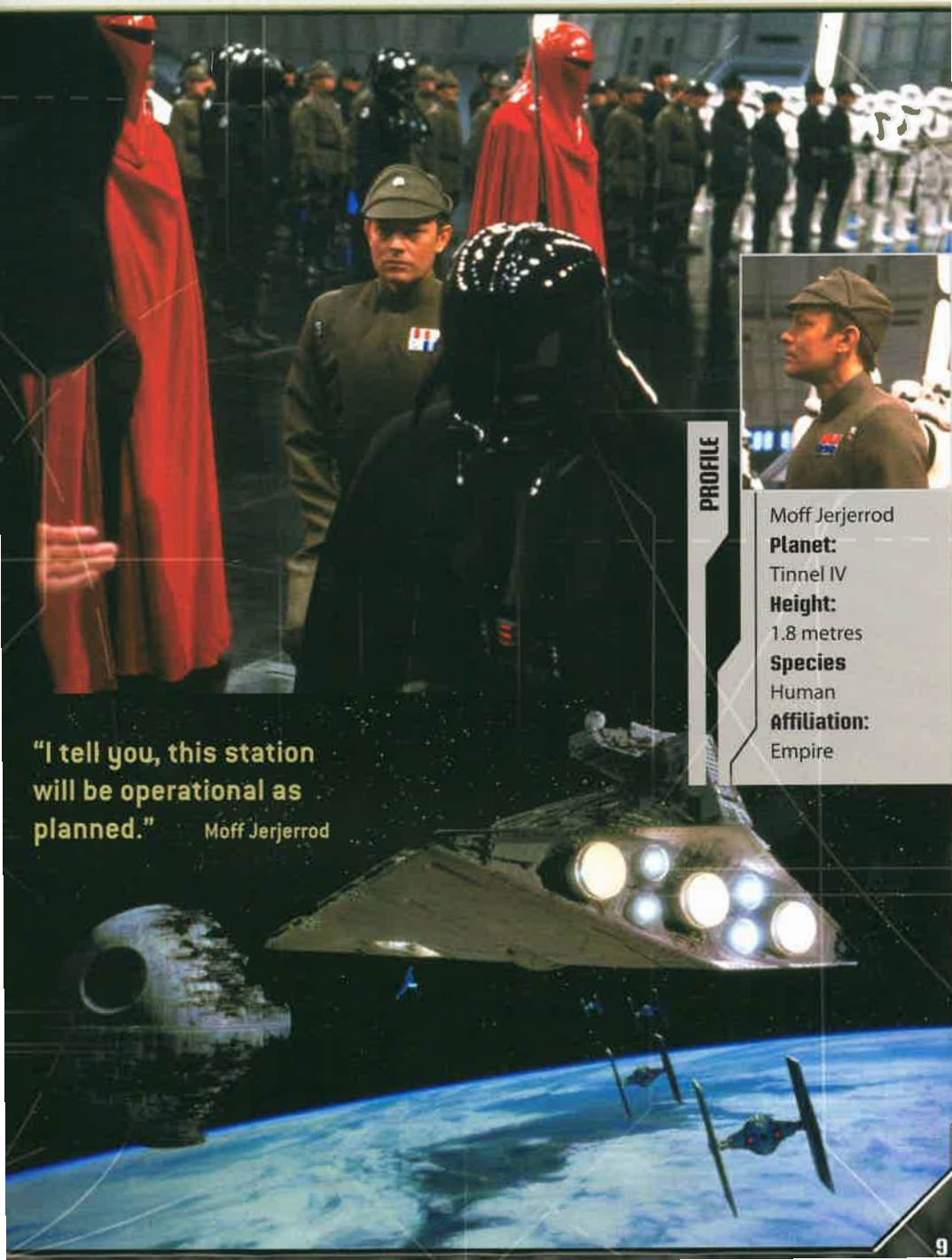
A perfect Imperial administrator, Jerjerrod's rise to prominence was helped by his lack of ambition – no superior ever felt threatened by him. The same cannot be said of the enemies of the Empire dealt with by Jerjerrod. A consummate soldier, he rejoiced in the destruction of his foes, often using massive and excessive force in battle. All of these things saw Jerjerrod become a Moff and, not long after, Commander of the second Death Star.

In his role as supervisor of the construction of the station, Jerjerrod kept things efficient and on track, despite lacking manpower. His fear of Darth Vader, to whom he frequently had to report (he was on *Executor* during the Bespin incident doing just that), meant that he never made any serious complaints. This proved to the Emperor that he'd picked exactly the right man.

Loyal To The End

Jerjerrod was delighted to demonstrate the power of the Death Star to the Rebel Fleet at Endor, glorying in turning the planet-killing superlaser on mere capital ships. Fortunately, Lando Calrissian and Wedge Antilles destroyed the station before Jerjerrod could use the weapon on Endor in line with the Emperor's orders. Dutiful to the last, Jerjerrod died at his post.

Lando Calrissian and Wedge Antilles



PROFILE

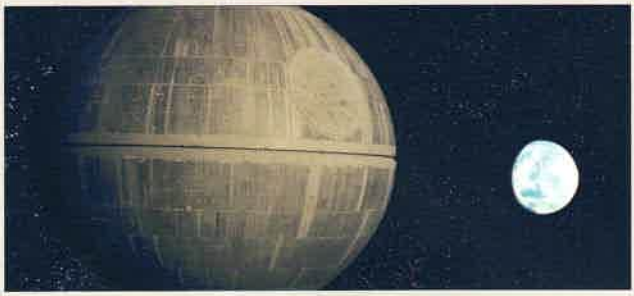
Moff Jerjerrod
Planet:
Tinnel IV
Height:
1.8 metres
Species
Human
Affiliation:
Empire

"I tell you, this station will be operational as planned." Moff Jerjerrod

THE DEATH STAR

THE EMPIRE PERSONIFIED

The Death Stars were very much the embodiment of the Tarkin Doctrine, and also of the Empire itself. As such, they also represented the Empire's weakness – an unshakable belief that the galaxy would be kept in line by a rule of fear imposed by technological might.

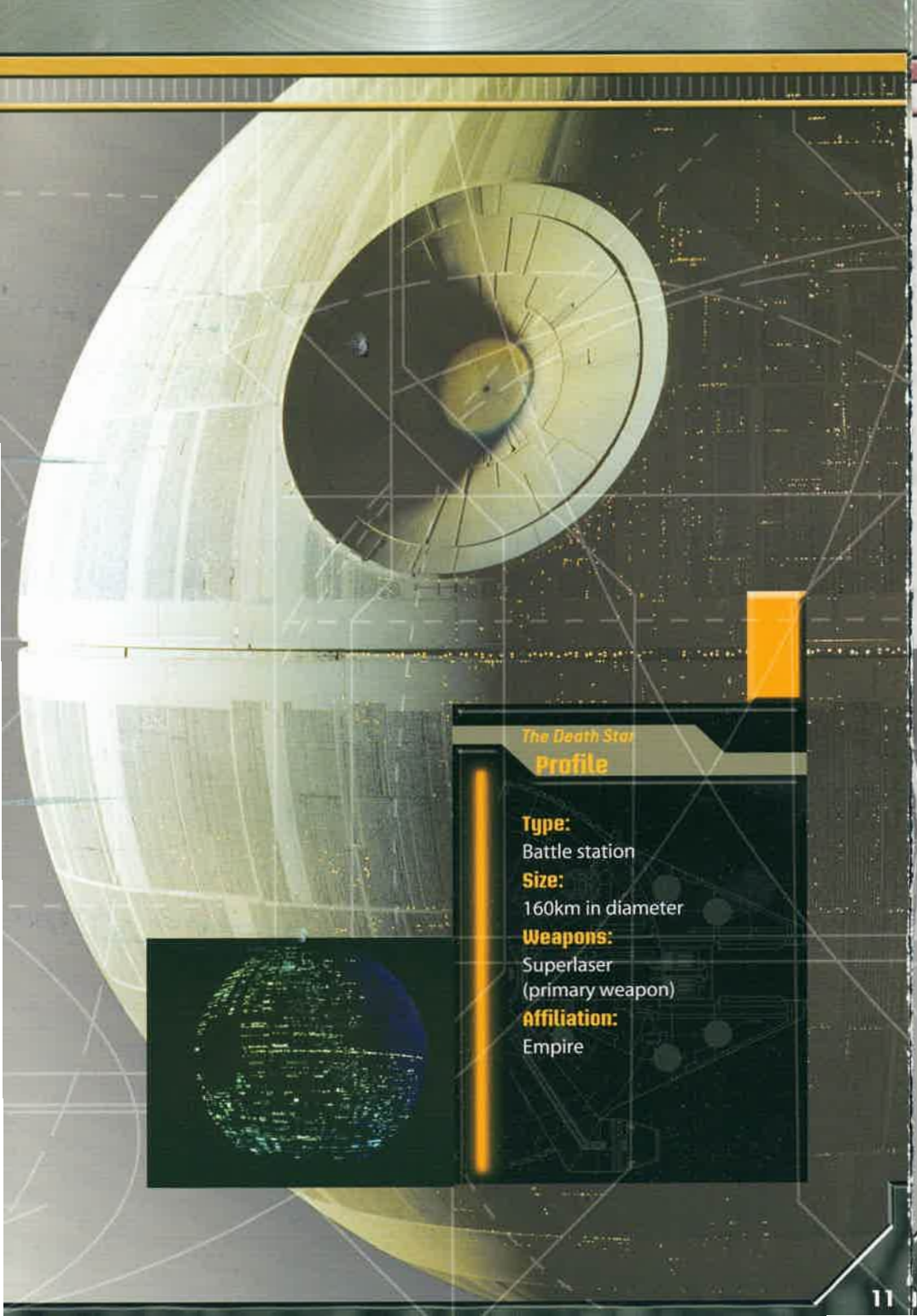


The plans Grand Moff Tarkin stole from one designer and passed to the Geonosians were refined in the Geonosian hives but never taken beyond the planning stage there. Instead, the prototype was developed secretly (a secret kept even from the Geonosians) at Tarkin's Maw Installation. Despite the success at the Installation, once testing was complete the station itself had to be built elsewhere and the prototype was powered down. Other weapons continued to be developed at the Installation, however.

Supervised by senior designer Bevel Lemelisk, and overseen by Tarkin and Darth Vader, the Death Star was built above the prison world of Despayre in the Outer Rim. The planet itself was ravaged for raw materials, with the prisoners – including a significant number of Wookiees – providing the workforce.

Time To Kill

Contracted personnel were told that the station was to be used for mining the core elements from dead planets. Despite overspends, spying, internal politics and even prison breakouts (put down by Vader's 501st Legion) the Death Star was completed. Immediately, Tarkin tested the superlaser on Despayre, destroying it utterly. The Death Star was ready.



The Death Star

Profile

Type:
Battle station

Size:
160km in diameter

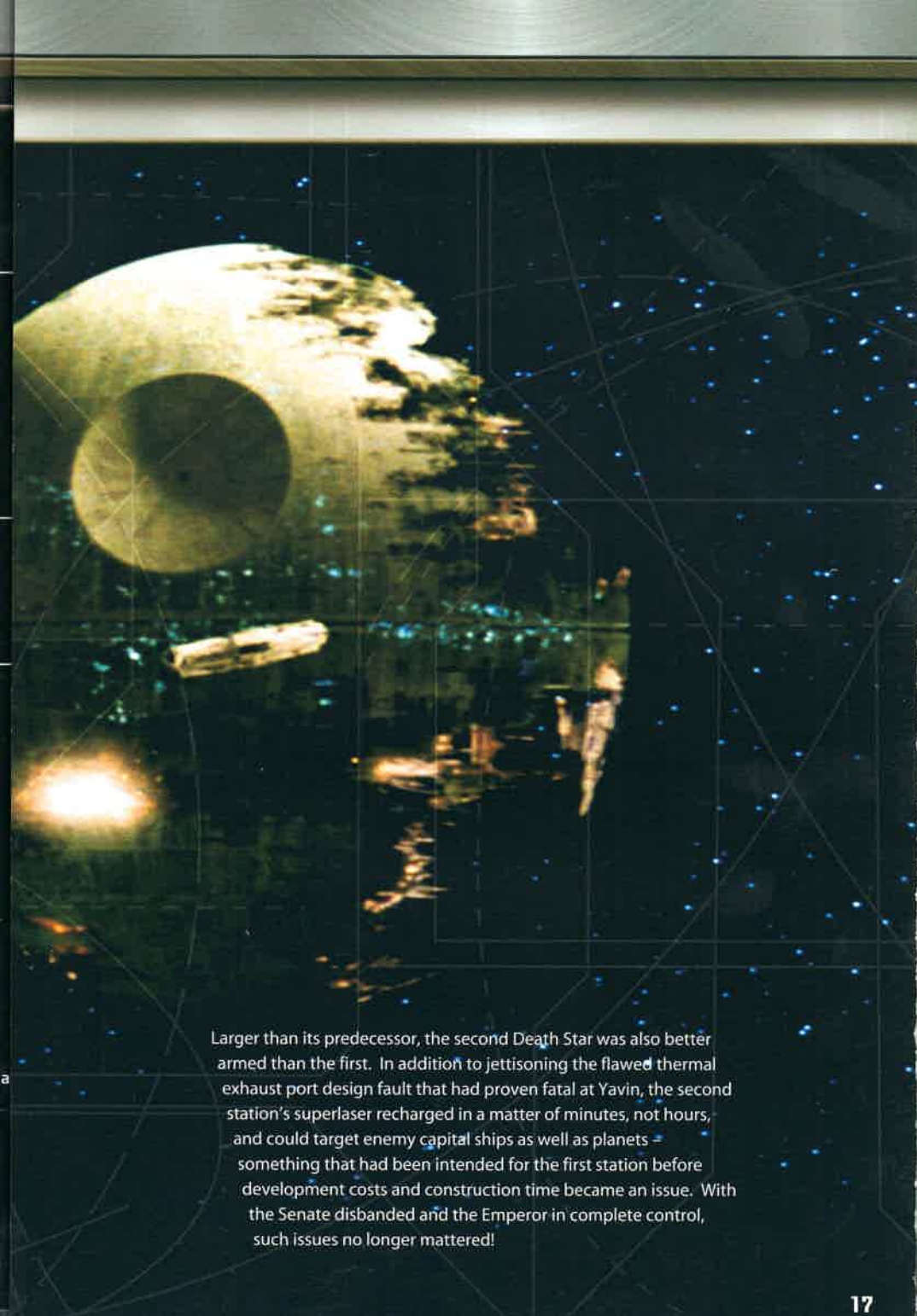
Weapons:
Superlaser
(primary weapon)

Affiliation:
Empire

THE DEATH STAR

PLANET-DESTROYING SPACE STATION

The destructive power concentrated in a Death Star's superlaser made it the most powerful weapon in the galaxy. Huge, heavily defended and home to countless crew and Imperial troopers, a Death Star was a brutal statement of power, built to awe and subdue.



Larger than its predecessor, the second Death Star was also better armed than the first. In addition to jettisoning the flawed thermal exhaust port design fault that had proven fatal at Yavin, the second station's superlaser recharged in a matter of minutes, not hours, and could target enemy capital ships as well as planets – something that had been intended for the first station before development costs and construction time became an issue. With the Senate disbanded and the Emperor in complete control, such issues no longer mattered!

THE SECOND DEATH STAR

Type
Battle station

Engineer
Bevel Lemelisk

Size
900km in diameter

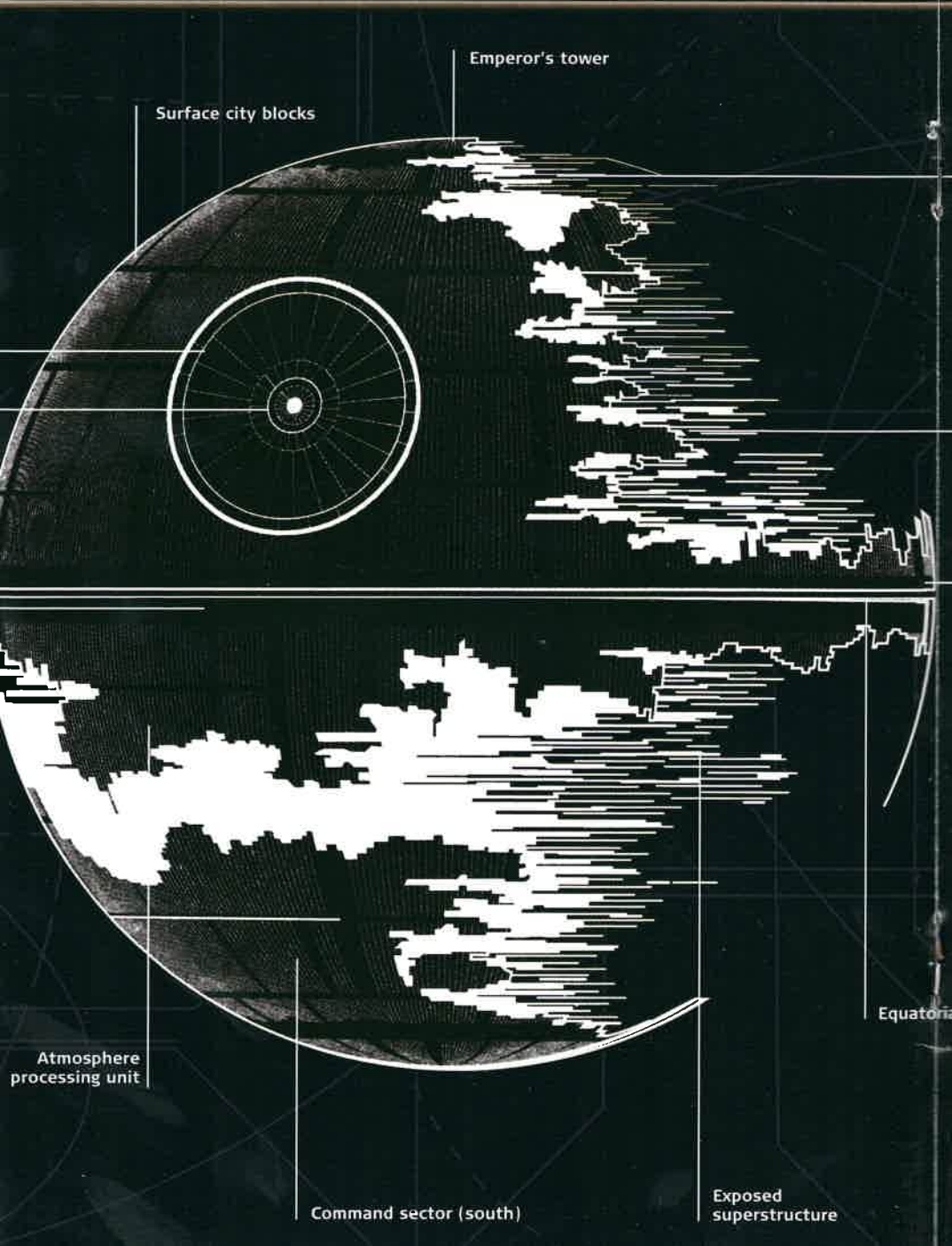
Engines
Inactive

Power Plant
SFS I-s3a solar ionisation reactor

Shields
Projected an immense deflector shield from the nearby forest moon of Endor

Armament
Superlaser (primary)
If completed, would have featured over 30,000 turbolaser batteries, 7,500 laser cannons, 5,000 ion cannons and 768 tractor beams.

Affiliation
Empire


Emperor's tower
Surface city blocks
Equatoria
Atmosphere processing unit
Command sector (south)
Exposed superstructure

Command sector (north)

Reactor core internal

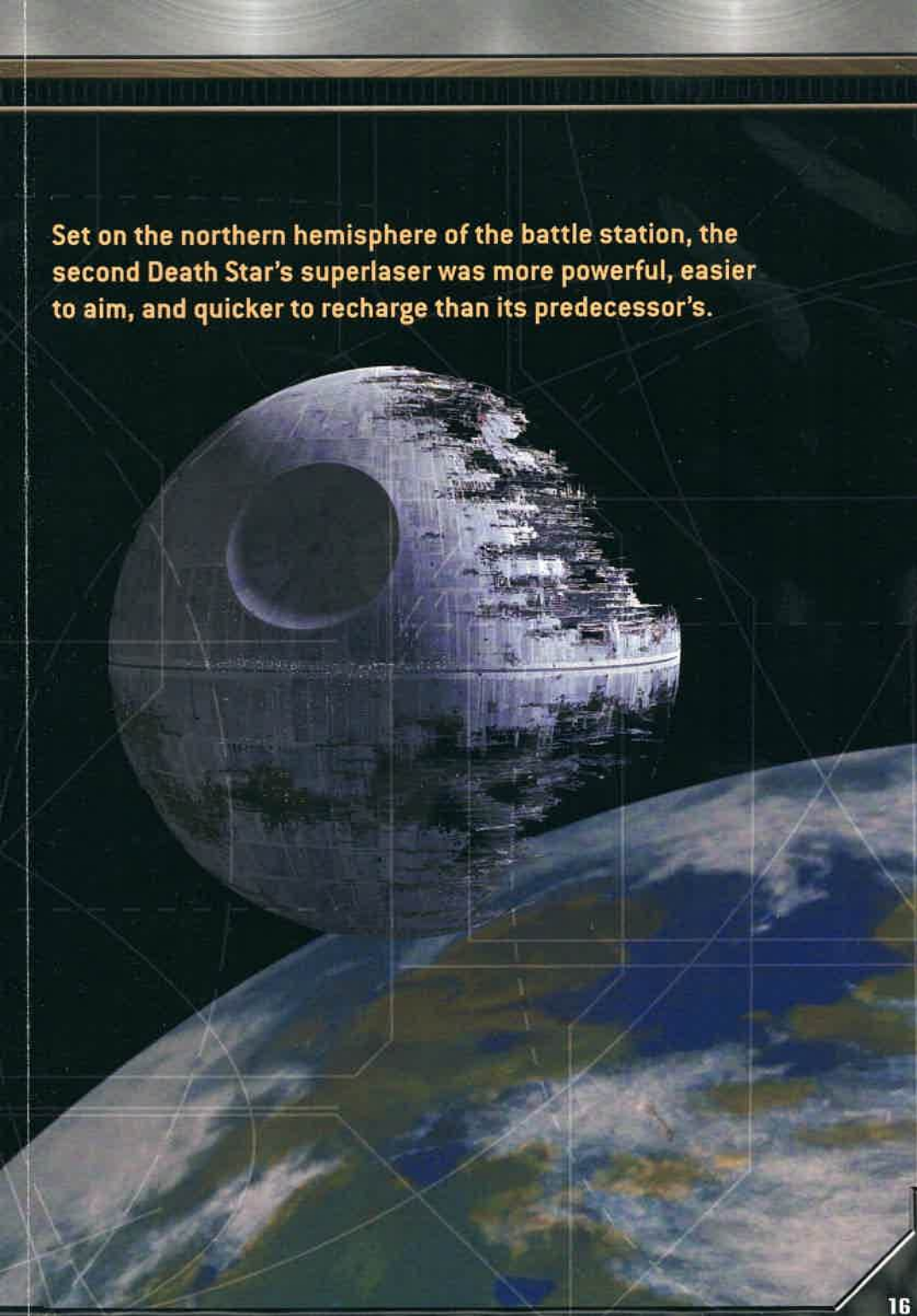
Ion drives uncompleted

Inside the Death Star

Despite being unfinished, much of the second Death Star was fully usable. It was so enormous that a huge part of its interior volume was habitable and home to many crew and other Imperial forces. Building the second Death Star required extraordinary resources both in terms of materials and construction operatives. Simply getting around in the Death Star could take a great deal of time. Journeys could be measured in hundreds of kilometres, so the internal transportation system was sophisticated and speedy.

rial trench

Set on the northern hemisphere of the battle station, the second Death Star's superlaser was more powerful, easier to aim, and quicker to recharge than its predecessor's.



NATASI DAALA

PROTÉGÉE OF GRAND MOFF TARKIN

Grand Moff Tarkin once sought to learn the identity of a mysterious Imperial who, using an anonymous code name, was defeating many of the greatest Imperial strategists of the time in computer-simulated battles. He was astonished to find a mere corporal on kitchen duties, and a woman to boot. This was Natasi Daala.

Tarkin took Daala under his wing and, under his protection, she quickly rose to the rank of Admiral – the first woman to do so in the Empire. The two became lovers, and Tarkin eventually entrusted the Maw Installation to her command. Daala assisted Tarkin during the construction of the first Death Star, and then returned to the Maw on his orders to await further instructions.

A Long Wait In Darkness

She waited 11 years before Han Solo and his companions brought news that the Emperor, Vader and Tarkin were all dead, the Empire had splintered apart, and the New Republic was in control. Daala had a vengeful spirit, and struck out at the New Republic then and on many other occasions, though she was defeated each time. Her attempts at bringing the Imperial factions together met with mixed success. That said, she is credited with having laid the foundations of what would become the Imperial Remnant, the control of which she passed to Gilad Pellaeon.

In Hiding

Daala resurfaced on a number of occasions. Each time, she harried the enemies of the Empire. Each time she failed and seemed to have been killed. The Republic never wrote her off, however, and they were correct not to do so. In fact, she eventually returned to the Maw, rebuilt the Installation she herself had crippled, and lived there with her lover, Vorn, and son. During the invasion of the Yuuzhan Vong, she struck out from the Maw to help those she could, the chaos of galactic war disguising her return. However, when she ventured forth after the war, an attempt was made on her life by the Imperial Moffs. They failed, blinding Daala in one eye, but killing Vorn.

In Control

When the Second Galactic Civil War sundered the Galactic Alliance, Daala came to Pellaeon's aide with her unique and powerfully armed ships, the Maw Irregular Fleet. However, Pellaeon was murdered by the same Moffs who killed Vorn. Ultimately, Daala had her revenge, aided by none other than the venerable warrior Boba Fett and his Mandalorian warriors. She became the hope for the Alliance against the forces of a new Sith Lord – the fallen Jacen Solo, now Darth Caedus. Victorious in the end, her service was rewarded when she became Galactic Alliance Chief of State.

PROFILE

Species:
Human
Height:
1.73 metres
Weapon:
Blaster
Vessel:
Imperial Star Destroyer
Affiliation:
Empire/Imperial Remnant/Galactic Alliance

SECOND DEATH STAR

THE EMPEROR'S THRONE ROOM

Set at the very top of the Death Star battle station, the Emperor's throne room was at the pinnacle of a 100-storey tower. Designed to show the power of Emperor Palpatine over the galaxy, it was instead the site of his death at the hands of his own apprentice.

Any location that might play host to Emperor Palpatine possessed a throne room. In fact there were many Imperial throne rooms dotted throughout the galaxy, including aboard a number of Imperial starships.

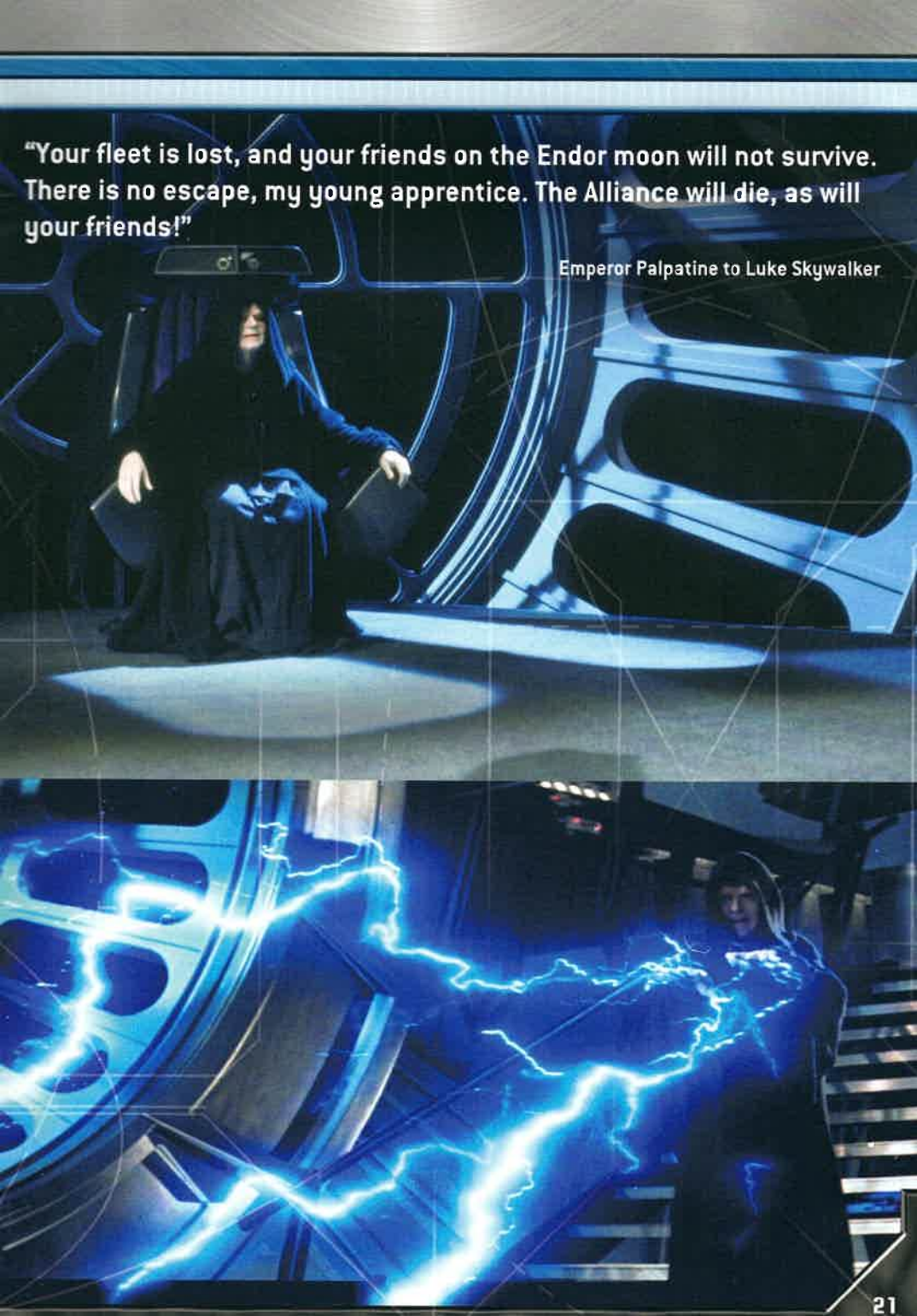
Centre Of The Web

The Emperor's throne rooms, and particularly the thrones themselves, were not merely decorative. Palpatine fully understood the power of symbolism and used it forcefully. For example, his throne room in the Imperial Palace on Coruscant set him atop a tall, spotlit plinth in the centre of a massive, domed, circular room very similar to the original Republic Senate debating chamber. The Emperor's tower on the second Death Star bore more than a passing resemblance to the Jedi Council tower, though the isolated nature of the Emperor's version showed that he was in control and answered to no council.

At The Pinnacle Of The Tower

There were four principle areas atop the Emperor's tower on the second Death Star. A single turbolift led up through the centre of the building, with visitors checked and monitored every step of the way. Getting to that lift required passing through the barracks building of an entire legion of the elite Emperor's Royal Guard. The lift shaft itself descended right through to the heart of the Death Star.

The turbolift opened to face the throne room, the lift door flanked by two impassive, crimson-clad Royal Guard. The Emperor's shuttle had a dock in the area to the left, while the one to the right contained a massive holographic map of the galaxy and a communications centre. To the rear, 'behind' the lift, was a private



"Your fleet is lost, and your friends on the Endor moon will not survive. There is no escape, my young apprentice. The Alliance will die, as will your friends!"

Emperor Palpatine to Luke Skywalker

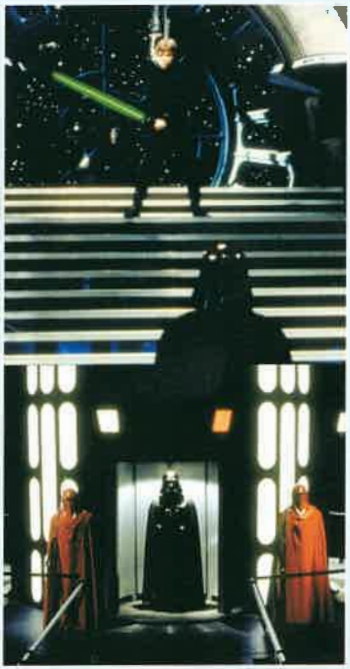
Behind The Scenes

The Emperor's throne room set was built on Stage 4 of Elstree Studios. The scenes were filmed there in 1982 from February 25th to March 4th.

meeting room modelled after its twin back on Coruscant. At the back of that was the heavily guarded sleeping chamber.

The Galaxy At His Fingers

The Emperor's throne itself was more than simply a mechanical chair that could turn, eerily silently, to allow Palpatine to face a cowering appellant, or allow the Emperor to dismiss such an individual by turning his back to them without a word. The controls at the Emperor's fingertips could allow him to immediately make contact with any part of the station or, indeed, any part of his Empire.



Fallen Emperor

The throne room aboard the second Death Star was witness to a spectacular duel between Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader. Though Luke defeated his father, he refused to strike the final blow. Rejecting the Emperor and the dark side of the Force, Luke was attacked by Palpatine's devastating Force lightning. Seeing his son's torment, Anakin Skywalker threw off the dark side. Though he was mortally wounded in the process, he picked up Palpatine and hurled him to his doom down the shaft leading to the station's engines.

"Good. I can feel your anger. I am defenceless. Take your weapon! Strike me down with all of your hatred and your journey toward the dark side will be complete!"

Emperor Palpatine

PAUL HUSTON

FROM TRADITIONAL TO DIGITAL

Involved in the *Star Wars* films from the very beginning, Paul Huston was actively involved in the transition from models and matte painting to a digital world.

In the 1970s, Paul Huston joined the *Star Wars* family to work as a model maker. Also involved in some story boarding (where a film is set out as a series of cartoon-like images), he stayed with what became Industrial Light & Magic (ILM) to continue as a model maker on the rest of the original trilogy; Huston was Chief Model Maker for *Return of the Jedi*. He also worked on the *Indiana Jones* films. He became a matte photographer with ILM, then a cameraman, and then finally the senior digital matte artist on the prequel trilogy.

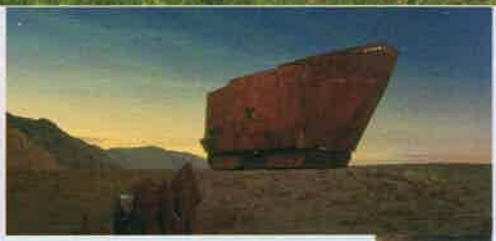
Matte Painting Master

Matte painting is a form of special effect that allows film directors to add enormously to the look of a movie without incurring huge expenses. In the traditional form of matte painting, actual paints are used to create an image giving the impression of a realistic-looking location; in a digital matte, instead of using paints and the like, the image is created in a computer.

From the very outset, matte painting was there to bring to life the fantastical environments that would have been impractical, impossible or just too costly to build for real. Interacting with detailed model work and composite live elements, a matte painting can create the impression of a living location. Having been involved in all of those stages, and having seen the transition from physical paintings to the digital versions, Paul is perfectly qualified to supervise today's digital matte artists on such films as *Iron Man*, the *Pirates of the Caribbean* trilogy, and *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*.

AWARD WINNER

"And the winner is..." In 2003, Paul Huston received the award for Best Matte Painting In A Motion Picture from the Visual Effects Society for his work on *Star Wars Episode II*. He has also worked extensively in television and won an Emmy in 1993 for Outstanding Individual Achievement in Special Visual Effects for the *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles*.



Adaptation

In January of 1994, Huston was one of many ILM wizards who revisited the work they had done on the original trilogy to begin to fully integrate new digital techniques. Huston was involved with the creation of the now-thriving, bustling version of Mos Eisley that Lucas had always envisioned, as well as Obi-Wan Kenobi's house in the Dune Sea.

Some Picnic

In *Star Wars Episode II*, Paul Huston created the digital matte paintings that were the background to Anakin and Padme's picnic in the Lake Country of Naboo. To get the images looking just as he wanted, he initially built and photographed detailed miniatures of the scenes, then used the pictures he had taken as a basis for his digital work that was to be used in the movies.

THE DEATH STAR

STAGES OF CREATION

EVOLUTION OF THE DEATH STAR

1 The finished model of the second Death Star measured 137 centimetres in diameter and showed only the front of the station.

2 Built of lucite, an acrylic glass, the model featured fine photo-printed metal sheets. Tiny bulbs lit the surface from below through microscopic holes.

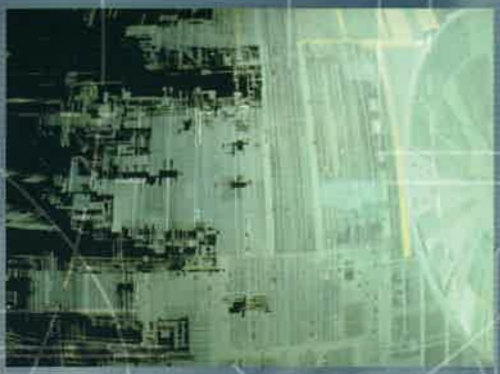
5 Close attention to detail ensured that the models looked realistic on screen, and that the camera did not capture anything unwanted during filming.

6 Some early pre-production models of the first Death Star were silver plated and had lots of protruding structures on the surface.

On screen the Death Stars have the menacing presence of the terror weapons they were designed to be. But these all-too-real-looking battle stations are actually masterpieces of special effects and are a combination of fabulously detailed models and matte paintings.

3 For close-up filming, other sections of the station were variously created as detailed models (shown above) or as matte paintings.

4 The onscreen Death Star is the opposite way around from the model. For compositional reasons, the image was flipped horizontally in the final film.



7 The Death Star you see in the cinema is painstakingly assembled from matte paintings, all of the station miniatures, large and small, and...

8 ...models of the surface of the station, which were used, for instance, during the fighter assault and the crashing of the *Executor* Star Destroyer.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Does Grand Moff Tarkin appear in Star Wars Episode III: ***Revenge of the Sith***?

2 What was the final target for the second Death Star's superlaser?

3 What is Moff Jerjerrod's excuse for why he can't meet the Emperor's demands on the construction timetable for the second Death Star?

ANSWERS:

1 Yes, he does. He appears on the bridge of a Star Destroyer with the Emperor and Darth Vader as they see the Death Star take shape over Despayre.

2 The last target the Emperor gives Jerjerrod is the moon of Endor. Fortunately, the station explodes before the order can be carried out.

3 Moff Jerjerrod complains that he needs more men if he is to meet the Emperor's impossible demands. He changes his tune pretty fast when he hears the Emperor is on his way...

C

Clawdite

Species
Episode II

Clawdites were a genetically adapted species created by the Zolanders when they discovered their world was being irradiated by their sun. Clawdites, who eventually subjugated the Zolanders, could shapeshift – some, such as bounty hunter and assassin Zam Wesell, better than others.

Cody, Clone Commander

Character
Episode III

The clone designated CC-2224 worked with Obi-Wan Kenobi in several campaigns, developing a close rapport with the Jedi Knight. Unfortunately, along with all the other clones, Cody was turned against the Republic and the Jedi on receiving Order 66 during the Battle of Utapau.

Colo claw fish

Species
Episode I

While travelling in a borrowed Gungan submersible, Jedi Qui-Gon Jinn and his Padwan Obi-Wan Kenobi encountered this horrifying creature. Their vessel was badly damaged, and things looked bad for the Jedi, until an even more massive fish, the sando aqua monster, tackled the beast.

Comlink

Technology
Episodes I to VI

'Comlink' is a catch-all term for small, personal communication devices used across the galaxy. Although all comlinks share the basics of a receiver, transmitter and some form of power cell, they vary in additional software, hardware, effective range and so on. Generally speaking, they are used for short-range communication only.

Commerce Guild

Organisation
Episode II

In theory, organisations like the Commerce Guild were supposed to offer smaller companies the security of being part of a larger group while maintaining their independence. The Commerce Guild, however, frequently bullied companies into joining it, and became a significant financial and industrial powerhouse. It backed the Separatist campaign in the Clone Wars.

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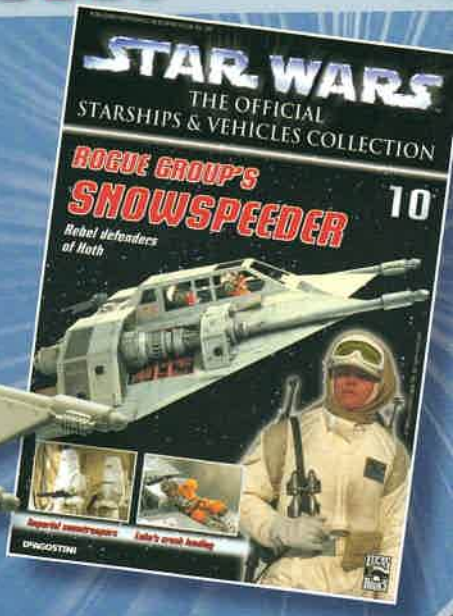
WITH ISSUE 10: ROGUE GROUP'S SNOWSPEEDER